

Tarab Retreat 2020

\$1500 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - August 2020

Tarab Retreat 2020 Brings Klezmer, Arabic, Balkan, Indian, and Persian Music and Dance to Participants Around the Country—Online

By Pete Jacobs
Event Co-sponsor

Pete Jacobs and Meg York are world music and dance enthusiasts and seekers of Tarab—“the magical connection between musician, dancer, and audience that inspires higher and higher levels of creativity, expression and ecstasy.” The Tarab Retreat is patterned after the Mendocino Middle Eastern Music and Dance Camp in California and is held in Colorado involving regional teachers. It is a local version of Mendocino without the two-day drive and without the mosquitoes!

The Tarab retreat was established as an opportunity for dancers and musicians to improve their skills and experience the connection between musicians and dancers that comes from live interaction and improvisation. We wanted to put on an event that featured regional teachers, mostly from Colorado and New Mexico, and was accessible to local dancers and musicians. For 2020, due to COVID-19, we had to cancel the in-person event at the La Foret retreat center in Colorado Springs and instead put on a hybrid event with a combination of Zoom classes, live music and dance instruction, and performances broadcast to remote participants using a variety of platforms.

The online version of the Tarab retreat, August 29-30 2020, was a successful adaptation of the live retreats held in 2018 and 2019. We held a Klezmer concert in a park in Denver, broadcast a series of four classes and one concert from Columbine Unity Center in Boulder on Zoom and Facebook live, and broadcast another six classes and one concert from remote studios on Zoom. The classes attracted around 10-12 participants each. Facebook Live concert invitations went out to 646 people. We got 262 Likes and 271 Follows. We got great feedback from participants all over the country who loved the event!

Comments from participants:

“Thank you so much for Tarab retreat. It was really wonderful. I have no words for it!” ---Deborah, an attendee

“It was a joy to be there, to be with everyone, and I’m so impressed and admiring of how you all arranged everything. Whatever is in store for us by next year, you all have put a good system in place to go for it.” ---Travis, a Tarab dance teacher

All photos by [Diana Odem](#)





“It’s really wonderful to hear you all from home! I’ve missed these music and dance connections so much during the pandemic.” ---Mary Ann, an attendee

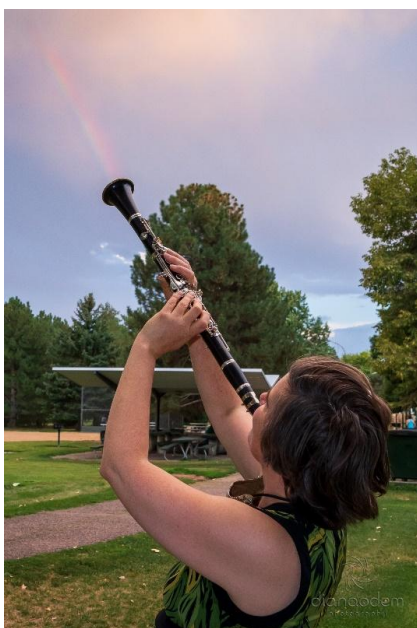
“Thank you so much for letting me be part of the Tarab Retreat in person. It was such a special time, and I couldn’t help but get teary eyed.”
---Megan, an attendee

“Thank you so much for having me teach for your retreat. I had a good time sharing the knowledge and I'm glad to see everybody online. Thank you again both of you for this chance, I look forward to seeing you again soon.” ---Faisal, a Tarab percussion teacher



“Once again Tarab Retreat was a wonderful experience for me. Thank you so much for putting it together and for inviting me to teach. It is/was such a pleasure to work with such kind, talented, all-around excellent human beings. I had a great time, learned some great stuff, and was totally transformed by the beautiful music and beautiful hearts of everyone playing. Sunday evening's concert was a truly amazing way to finish the weekend.” ---Annya, a Tarab dance teacher

More information is available on the Tarab website at: <https://tarabretreat.com/>.



All photos by [Diana Odem](#)